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**SPRUCE
BARK BEETLE
NEWS**

JANUARY 1954

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE



REGION ONE

Missoula, Montana

December 3, 1953

No. 8

INSECT COMMITTEE MEETS - Progress to date in spruce bark beetle control and plans for 1954 were discussed at a meeting of the Idaho and Montana insect committee at the Davenport Hotel in Spokane on November 18. George Neils was chairman. Others in attendance included: George Neff, Anaconda Copper Mining Co., Bonner, Montana; W. C. Hodge, Tree Farmers, Missoula, Montana; Ora Thompson, Western Montana Lumber Co., Missoula, Montana; G. A. Miller, Kalispell Lumber Co., Kalispell, Montana; P. D. Edgell, Asst. Vice President, N. P. Ry., Seattle, Washington; W. E. Pelto, N. P. Ry., Seattle; Grant B. Potter, Ohio Match Co., Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; E. C. Rettig, Pot-latch Forests, Inc., Lewiston, Idaho; Art Roberts, Boise-Payette Lumber Co., Boise, Idaho; Jim Brown, Jr., Pack River Lumber Co., Sandpoint, Idaho; Ernie Kolbe, Western Pine Association, Portland, Oregon; and Hanley Morse, Western Pine Association, Coeur d'Alene, Idaho.

Ira J. Mason, P. D. Hanson, Axel G. Lindh, Howard R. Jones, Fred J. Neitzling, Howard E. Ahlskog, Karl A. Klehm, George H. Duvendack, George F. Weyermann and Donald N. Matthews represented the Forest Service. The Bureau of Entomology was represented by James C. Evenden and T. T. Terrell.

SCORE BOARD - INFESTED SPRUCE LOGGED

National Forest Ownership	1952 Production Year (July 1, 1952 - June 30, 1953)	1953 Production Year (July 1, 1953 to October 10, 1953)	LAST 4 WEEKS (Oct. 11 to November 7)
	Million Board Feet	Million Board Feet	Million Board Feet
Cabinet	0.8	1.8	0.6
Clearwater	0	0.1	0.9
Flathead	2.4	4.1	1.0
Kaniksu	6.5	9.6	2.8
Kootenai	57.7	28.1	5.3
Lolo	1.7	9.1	3.4
St. Joe	7.2	11.3	2.1
Subtotal	76.3	64.1	16.1
<u>All Other Ownerships</u>	18.7	27.4	7.2
GRAND TOTALS	95.0	91.5	23.3

FLATHEAD FACTS - There are fewer spruce bark beetles near the Hungry Horse reservoir than on other parts of the Flathead National Forest. Ranger Bert Bealey is of the opinion that the dam clearing operations are responsible. Timber on the 34-mile long and up to 3-mile wide reservoir was felled several months ahead of being logged or burned. It is surmised that the felled spruce served as trap trees on a gigantic scale. It is assumed the trapped beetles were killed when the spruce was logged or burned. It is also believed that clearing the 47-mile right-of-way for the road along the west side of the reservoir had the same effect.

Rex Brown is now constructing his main haul road into the 5,500 M Hornet Creek chance on Lower Whale Creek. Hornet Creek is heavily infested. His camp is strung along the new Whale Creek access road until he can reach a suitable site in the sale area.

Koenig Brothers have completed the Red Meadow blowdown sale and are now constructing their main haul road into the 2,300 M Lower Moose Creek sale. They plan to log this 45 percent infested unit this winter.

Forest Trap Tree Oliver Meyer has the Glacier View trap tree program well under way. Melvin Yuhas is directing the district effort and has three bulldozer teams working as follows: Flip Darling, Big Fork dispatcher, with Frank Smith and Harry Spear, is selecting routes and trap trees for two Royal Creek Timber Company bulldozer operators on Shorty Creek. Jim Hutchens is supervising the efforts of dozer operators Leo Harrison and Will Warner in the North Fork of Coal Creek which was planned and laid out prior to the arrival of the dozers. Carl Marsh, Les Darling, Phil Stevens and Del Hutton are trying to stay ahead of Lloyd Sonderson and Dennis Kinshella in the Upper Teepee Creek drainage. In spite of up to 22 inches of snow, their progress has been satisfactory to date and some 300 trap trees per day are being felled on the North Fork.

Bob Frey has completed compilation of the Flathead spruce data. With Dick Baldwin, Narvey McCarty and Herb Stiler he will turn to the Upper Swan trap tree program. This is a cooperative effort with the Northern Pacific.

George Ward, who has been cooking at the Ninko Cabin in Whale Creek, reports seeing two wolverines and six marten in his front yard. One large grizzly left his tracks in the back yard the same week.

Leeland Price will suspend his logging operations early in December in the South Fork of Coal Creek basin until next spring.

SQUIRRELS EAT BEETLES TOO - From 221 to 384 spruce bark beetle larvae were found in the stomachs of a few dead squirrels examined by Frank Hutchison, formerly state entomologist of Colorado. These squirrels had been feeding in infested spruce stands. This interesting information was obtained by Dave Scott from Mr. Hutchison.

From the Kootenai comes the report that Wilson Kahle recently observed a squirrel feeding on spruce larvae. The squirrels tear off the bark to get to the larvae.

The squirrels are apparently teaming up with the woodpeckers in living off the beetles. There is a small cone crop this year which may explain why the squirrels are turning to a beetle diet.

KANIKSU KAPERS - Publicity should be given to spruce beetle larvae, especially for blueback, as an excellent fish bait. If one larvae were used for each blueback caught in Lake Pend Oreille during 1953, the latest report is we would have reduced the beetle population by 1,250,000.

The new band mill at Moyie Springs is now in operation and busily engaged in manufacturing beetle spruce.

The three access road contractors, McNutt Brothers on Canuck Creek, Wangsgaard on Boundary Creek and Lucich Company on Myrtle Creek have all suspended operations for the year. A good start was made but considerable work remains to be done in 1954.

In spite of the recent wet and snowy weather, infested spruce is still being hauled from Canuck Creek, Zion Creek and Myrtle Creek.

Woe is the careless beetle next year. If he isn't careful, he'll find himself feasting on one of Viche's trap trees.

Operational cruises have been completed in the Deemer, Leola, Salmo and the Upper Sullivan compartments.

The trap tree program has been started in the Deemer and Leola Compartments, and is well under way, although the work is being accomplished in $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet of snow.

A six-man trap tree felling crew braved the snow and rain of the Upper Priest River country to trap bugs on Continental Mountain. Headed up by Robert McCarthy, the crew consisted of Bob Porterfield, Rudolph Lood, "Mac" McCarver, Gilbert Hunt and Delano Maggi. Gust Timm returned to the Upper Priest for the third time this season as camp cook. Frank Stoner packed the men in and out on his weary mules. The crew, working from November 2 to November 13 experienced only one snowfall. Rain and cold weather predominated. Highlights of the expedition: Gust Timm's beard was as long as ever. Bob Porterfield's dog, "Sally," was put to work as chief bug eater. Frank Stoner's favorite comment, "Boy, that Hughes Meadow is a cold place!"

Contract felling is progressing in the Canuck, Myrtle, and Deemer Creek drainages. Practically all of the contractors are former temporary forest workers. They are working in 18 inches of snow.

The annual Kaniksu Forest party was held at the Elks Temple in Sandpoint on the evening of the 20th. You can bet your life that the spruce bark beetle was in evidence. There was some competition with timber resource review but the beetle won.

"Spruce Bark Beetle" Marshall and "Trap Tree" Viche are making plans to drop camps in the early spring to complete the trap tree jobs. The latest information is to the effect the camps will be just like home except for six or eight feet of snow.

Viche's chemical control and trap tree legs are leaving the spruce job the first of the year and returning to blister rust control work because Bob McCarthy will take over as unit supervisor on the Kaniksu blister rust control program. He is replacing Floyd Cowles who is going to the Sandpoint District on timber work.

The Kaniksu Forest fiscal year goal was 10 $\frac{1}{4}$ million feet of spruce, including production from the Rattle, Porcupine, Myrtle and Canuck Creeks that were to be tapped

KANIKSU KAPERS, (Continued)

by federally constructed access roads. Marshall took several bets from various rangers that the estimated cut would be met, for morale purposes as well as to acquire a scotch and soda if possible. This fall when it was apparent that access road construction was too slow to get production from the above areas the chances of making the cut looked pretty dim. However, favorable late fall logging conditions resulted in extra production on existing sale areas, and now it looks as though the fiscal year's production will reach a new high for the forest of over 100 million feet.

The reported cut since July 1, 1953, has now reached 72.8 million feet, and the hauling on many sales is still going strong. It is expected that at least 15 million feet in addition will be reported on November and December cutting reports. One spruce sale to Moyis River Lumber Company on Lower Canuck Creek will be active all winter, but the balance of log production until July 1954, will be from pine and mixed timber sales at lower elevations.

One example of the impact of expanded spruce production is found on the Sandpoint Ranger District. Ranger Shorty Meneely's organization in the past has been geared to administer an annual cut of from 5 to 10 million board feet. His district cut this year will approach 30 million feet.

Sullivan Lake District just reported that Diamond Match Company resumed operations in Pass Creek and Sullivan Creek with trucks hauling to their mill at the rate of 100 M per day.

LOLO REPORT - Ten dozers have been pushing over trap trees. This work will end the first week in December. The men are experiencing some rugged going. Snow up to three feet deep adds to the difficulty of the spotters' job. Work is completed in the Cedar Creek area of the Superior District and nearing completion on the Lolo District in West Fork Butte Creek where power saws are rounding out the required number of traps in dozer areas. Bud Moore's crews on the Powell are working in Squaw Creek, Papoose Creek and the Lower Crooked Fork.

EPIDEMIC INCREASES AS EXPECTED - A year ago when plans to cope with the spruce bark beetle epidemic were being made, the entomologists estimated that the increase this 1953 flight year would be approximately 2 to 1. Now that the results of the past season's surveys have been analyzed, it is apparent that the predicted 2 to 1 increase in the number of trees infested has actually happened. The average increase for the infested portion of the region is 2.1 to 1 based on over 300,000 acres surveyed.

CLEARWATER IS DIFFERENT - Most forests use old-fashioned creosote treated timbers in their bridges. The Clearwater is more up-to-date. Don Moore reports the use of stringers cut from spruce trap trees treated with ethylene dibromide on a minor spur road up Goose Creek.

HEARD ON THE RADIO - If all insects in the world were put on one pan of a scales and all land animals, including man, were put on the other pan, scales would tip in favor of insects.

KOOTENAI KICKS BEETLES AROUND - The spruce bark beetle has attacked white pine. Near Spar Lake on the Troy District a spruce sale of 2.3 million was made in June 1953. Of the total volume removed 10 percent was white pine that had been attacked by the spruce bark beetle. The attacks were severe in some cases and light in others.

Ted Hay, Ray Hanson, Art Hammons, Benny Webb, Harry Irwin, Ray Karr, Max Aiken and Donald Gorman have been felling trap trees and making post-flight surveys in Dodge, Sullivan and the Little North Fork of Big Creek. With 400 green spruce trap trees felled already and a D-8 dozer going in to make accessible more of the area, this project is off to a big start. Sawyers on the job are Ted Hay, Ray Hanson, Art Hammons, Benny Webb and Harry Irwin. Ray Karr is doing the spotting for the dozer.

The Sullivan Creek post-flight survey of the spruce bark beetle has been completed by Max Aiken, Ray Hanson and Don Gorman.

In the Little North Fork of Big Creek both skidding outfits of J. Neils Lumber Co., Rexford Division, are now logging bug-killed spruce in the Little North Fork of Big Creek. To date they have cut 4.5 MM board feet and say they will keep logging there until January 1, 1954, despite the snow! They plan to deck 8 MM board feet here at Rexford and hold it for spring delivery.

Keith Thompson and his seven cruisers, A. Kuester, W. Ingram, Wirtz, R. Keilhorn, M. Kimsey, D. Howard and Montgomery, armed with seven-league boots, pencils and injections of spruce bark beetle anti-toxin, have completed the survey of 1,000 acres of spruce in Blacktail Creek and 900 acres in Sunday Creek. Thompson and his bug counters are now busy tallying the infested spruce in Weasel Creek. The crew reports warm and balmy weather from their pack camp. (Written October 26.) C. Harrington and his eight long-cared mules have been kept busy packing grub to the crew. Harrington reports that their appetites are enormous. (Mules and/or crew?)

Jim Steinhause, recently loaned to the Fortine District from the Libby District, led a 30-man crew into the Wigwam to prepare trap tree bait. He was ably assisted by Jack Francis and Bob DeLamatre, camp bosses at the Wolverine and Rich Creek camps and by John Aemisegger who helped direct the initial camp set-up. To date, 3,000 trees have been felled. Jim reports six inches of snow in camp with more back in the brush. "Butch" Davis and "Chuck" Harrington, with the assistance of 16 mules, Ed Koch and "Nevada" Bacon have been keeping the Paul Bunyans supplied with food and chain saw gas.

Keith Thompson, recently detailed from the Nezperce, along with fellow Nezperces, Dave Howard, Dick Keilhorn, Al Kuester and Joe Wirt, and Ben Hoffman from the Deer-lodge, together with "Kim" Kimsey from the Kootenai, have completed an operational survey of 6,000 acres of spruce type in Fortine, Basin, Davis, Cedar and Twin Meadows Creeks. Upon completion of this cruise the Nezperce detailers left to return to their home forests. The Fortine District would like to express a sincere "Well Done!"

Paul Totten and a crew of W. Ritter, Fugle, C. Hilliker, G. Barnhart and B. Davis have completed treating 250 trap trees in Upper Fortine Creek. B. Davis with his string of mules has been keeping the bug fighters supplied with bug juice on the firing line.

KOOTENAI, (Continued)

Dave Wilson, Lyn Montgomery, Orman Buswell, Ben Hofman, Bud Mitchell, M. E. Kinsey and Billy Ingram were in Rexford District October 12 - 16 on a spruce bark beetle survey in Pinkham Creek.

Several truck loads of spruce have been removed from the blowdown that occurred on September 28, 1953. Ernie Grambo flew the spruce areas on October 8 to determine the extent of the damage. No large blowdowns were found but scattered new windfalls were seen in Wigwam Creek.

TIMBER MANAGEMENT GIRLS ENJOY SHOW-ME TRIP - There was a great silence in timber management on November 2. No clicking of typewriters and no chatter of feminine voices. Dave Scott took Betty Gauld, Nora Regenos, Helen Rigg, Marie Reed and Lois Klommedson out among the spruce trees and the beetles.

Packers Meadow, near the Montana-Idaho boundary, on the Lolo, was the first stop. The girls heard something of the history of this area which was used as a camp by Lewis and Clark.

Dave Scott opened up several infested spruce trees so the girls could learn all about the private lives of the beetles. The newly exposed larvae looked so cold that Marie cuddled some in her hands. When they got warm and began to wiggle around she was glad to drop them. Crying spruce trees - pitch-out's - were seen; also trap trees and other phases of the infestation and its control.

Johnny Wilson of the Lolo showed the girls some of the timber sale activities around Packers Meadow. At noon a real Forest Service cook house dinner was devoured at Powell Ranger Station. Bud Moore was host. The flunkie was all dressed up and for this he was the subject of a lot of kidding. After dinner the station was inspected. They saw a packer take off with a string of mules. During the afternoon the Papoose road and the new Lewis and Clark highway were visited. Logging and loading operations on spruce timber sales were seen. They got to see a bulldozer pull a truck loaded with logs out of a mud hole.

On the return trip to Missoula the girls made a quick inspection of the Lolo Ranger Station. This included a very fast tour of the bunkhouse full of men which they mistook for the office - so they say.

The girls all agree that Dave Scott was a good guide to the mysteries of beetle lore and that the Lolo people were excellent hosts. Timber management resounds again to the clicking of typewriters and the chatter of feminine voices. The girls admit having a better understanding of the endless stream of words the men throw around concerning spruce roads, sales and beetles.

Dendroctonus means "Killers of Trees." But spruce bark beetles by any other name would be just as deadly.

Horridabeetaphobia. - Fear of getting spruce beetles inside your long underwear. - "Chip-Chat," Pack River Sales Co.